

### Children's Shows on the Common!

Our Children's Shows are held on the North Andover Town Common on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 10:00am every summer! We have an amazing array of musicians, clowns, magicians, and other fun performances lined up for Summer 2016! The shows are held on the Town Common, with the rain site at the NAMS Blaisdell Center.

### Sunday Night Concerts on the Common!

Sunday evenings in the summer are known for our Summer Concert Series on the North Andover town common! Shows are at 6pm on the common from July 10th - August 28th.



The **North Andover Beach at Stevens Pond** will be open through Sunday August 21<sup>st</sup>, 2016 7 Days a Week from 9:30am until 7:00pm. A SEASON PASS costs \$75 and can be purchased at Stevens Pond. Additional stickers may be purchased for \$20 per car. Proof of Residency and Auto Registration will be required at the time of purchase. Adult Day Passes for guests of residents and residents without stickers can be purchased for \$12 per adult (a daily fee). Children are free when accompanied by a paying adult. Please call the Youth Center at 978-682-9000 with any questions!

**SWIMMING LESSONS** are offered Monday through Thursday 10:00 – 11:00 am Minimum age is 4 (4 year olds must be accompanied by an adult in the water) \$50 per student for each four week session Registration and payment can be made when purchasing stickers

Session 1: June 27th – July 21st  
Session 2: July 25th – Aug 18th

# North Andover

## Community and Business

# NEWSLETTER



### NEWS FROM THE TOWN MANAGER'S OFFICE

#### North Andover received a credit rating upgrade from S&P Global Ratings to 'AAA'

On an annual basis the Town sells municipal (tax exempt) bonds to finance capital projects. These projects are approved by Town Meeting as part of the Capital Improvement Plan developed by the Town Manager and reviewed by the Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee. Selling bonds is the standard method used by all levels of government to finance similar projects. The interest rate paid by the Town on this debt is competitively determined by those institutions (mutual fund companies, trusts, etc.) who purchase the bonds. These institutions look at the Town's credit rating as the primary barometer for evaluating the risk associated with the bonds. The level of risk drives interest rates and therefore a higher rating means lower risk and in turn lower interest rates. The rating agency, S&P Global Ratings, recently upgraded the Town's credit rating to 'AAA'. According to S&P Global Ratings "An obligation rated 'AAA' has the highest rating assigned" by the firm. Also, "The obligor's capacity to meet its financial commitment on the obligation is extremely strong." This is the first time North Andover has ever received an 'AAA' rating. In upgrading the credit rating S&P cited specific characteristics, "We view the town's management as very strong, with "strong" financial policies and practices under our Financial Management Assessment methodology, indicating financial practices are strong, well embedded, and likely sustainable". Sustainability has been (and must continue to be) adopted by all community stakeholders as the core focus of the Town during the past four years and the recognition of this by S&P Global Ratings is significant.

#### Community Choice Aggregation Unanimously Adopted by Town Meeting

At the Annual Town Meeting on May 10<sup>th</sup>, residents unanimously approved an article recommended by the Town Manager and the Board of Selectmen to use the collective buying power of all residents and business owners to select an alternative electricity supplier at a lower cost than National Grid. This process which will take approximately one year to complete and will include a public hearing to obtain resident feedback, a competitive bidder process and a review by the state. If an alternative supplier is selected by the Town any resident can "opt out" of the program at any time at no cost. National Grid will remain the utility company for all residents and businesses and monthly bills will still come from them. Additionally, calls to customer service about outages or billing will remain unchanged from the bills you receive today. This initiative, intended to save residents between \$50 and \$90 per year on average, will only effect the "supplier" of electricity not the utility company. There will be much more information communicated in the upcoming months as the process moves forward.

#### North Andover will become a Green Community

With the passage of Article 8 at the Annual Town Meeting the town added the "Stretch Building Code" to the General Bylaws and completed the last of five steps in order to apply to the state for Green Community status. With this the Town will be entitled to receive more than \$150,000 annually in grants that will fund energy efficiency and renewable energy projects in North Andover. Currently there are more than 160 communities in the Commonwealth that have the same designation. To date more than \$29 million in grants have been awarded to communities in Massachusetts and now our community will be eligible for a share of that funding. The "Stretch Building Code" will not impact any homeowner planning on adding an addition or remodeling their home. New residential and large commercial construction will be required to follow the new guidelines, but the newest version of the building code incorporates many of the stretch code features and will therefore, have no meaningful impact on the cost of construction. The effective date of the bylaw is January 1, 2017.

#### Adoption of the FY 2017 Budget will mean a fifth consecutive years without a water or sewer rate increase.

Five years ago the Board of Selectmen prioritized controlling the rates charged to water and sewer customers in town. Given that mandate, the Town Manager has worked with the Town's Finance Director and Director of Public Works to control costs while continuing the investment in the Town's utility infrastructure. With approval at the Annual Town Meeting of the FY17 Water and Sewer Enterprise Fund Budgets we are pleased to announce that for the fifth consecutive year the Town's water and sewer rates will remain unchanged. This is the longest stretch since the enterprise funds were created that there has been no rate increase.

## NEWS FROM THE SCHOOL DEPARTMENT

What a wonderful year here in the North Andover Public Schools. A few of our accomplishments include:

- Our Scarlet and Black Singers, the Concert Choir and the 155-student member choir all received gold medal ratings at the MICCA Choral Festival
- Our Knights' Robotics Team finished 6th overall at the VEX World Championship
- Governor Baker visited Kittredge Elementary School for Read Across America Day
- We celebrated National Crunch Day by delivering (in a hay wagon) over 2,000 apples from Smolak Farms to all of our elementary students
- We celebrated 20 years at the Sargent School, and so much more.

We are very much looking forward to opening our doors in September with some important changes. First, we are bringing back World Language in the 6th and 7th grades at the Middle School. We are restoring our Elementary Librarians partially as a result of an innovative partnership with the Stevens Memorial Library. Finally, over half of our classrooms will be equipped with 21st century technology that will allow students and faculty to quickly and easily access electronic resources and curriculum with the goal of having all of our classrooms similarly equipped by September 2017. These changes are just the beginning steps in our effort to make the North Andover Public Schools as strong as the community that we represent. Thank you for the Town's continued support for our schools and our students!!



## NEWS FROM THE CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT

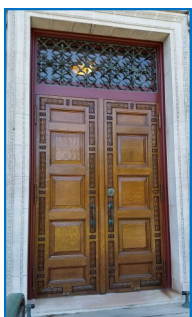


### New Kiosk Signage at North Andover Open Space Parcels

In 2015, the Friends of North Andover Trails (FONAT) applied for and received a Massachusetts Recreational Trails Grant in the amount of \$2,156. The grant required a volunteer match which was contributed by FONAT members led by Glen Aspeslagh who did the design work. The signs installed in the existing trailhead kiosks have been installed at five properties and will be installed in an additional five this summer. The signs replace laminated maps and printouts that were previously pinned inside the kiosk and needed frequent replacement. The signage brings a more professional look to the kiosks and will prove functional for years to come.

## SUMMER EVENTS AT STEVENS MEMORIAL LIBRARY

Summer is just around the corner! The Stevens Memorial Library staff have lined up an exciting schedule for "Summer at the Stevens," offering a wide variety of events for all ages. This summer's theme is Get in the Game, READ. Every Monday starting in July, 7/11/16 through 8/22/16, we are again running our successful summer program, Family Movies under the Tent at the Stevens Estate. Summer Wednesdays feature special Children's Room events including puppets, a magic show, reptiles, wizard, music and more. Fridays are for drop-in crafts. Programs for adults are held every Thursday evening starting 7/7/16 and run through 8/18/16. Our assorted program offerings feature music performances, a theatre presentation, topics including The Cuban Embargo, the social impact of tea, Hannah Duston's captivity in Colonial America, and more.



Our ongoing programs will continue throughout the summer including: story times, book clubs and groups, and technology help. Join other creative writers in the monthly Writers' Group, where our staff wordsmith facilitates an exchange of inspiration and constructive criticism. Don't forget we have discounted museum passes to some great locals in the area, what better way to spend the day with family or friends.

Next time you stop by the Stevens Memorial Library, make sure you take a look at our historic entrance and our beautifully restored historic front doors. Restoring the doors has highlighted the rich patina in the wood and also has made moving the doors easier. This project would not have been possible if it had not been for the generous support of the Community Preservation Committee.

All programs are funded by the Friends and the Trustees of the Stevens Memorial Library. You can support the Friends of the Library and your Library by attending the May and November book sales. Thanks to these dedicated volunteers, all profits from the book sales go to supporting the Library and its mission to bring great programming and information to our community. Remember, the Library schedule changes to summer hours in June. Keep up with Library news the easy way by signing up for the "Library News" alerts by entering your email in the box at the top right corner on Library website, [www.StevensMemLib.org](http://www.StevensMemLib.org). Or follow us on Facebook.

## NEWS FROM THE CLERK'S OFFICE

State Primary Election-Thursday (Note day change from Tuesday) September 8, 2016 – Polls Open 7AM-8PM – Last day to register to vote or change party affiliation is Friday August 18, 2016. The Town Clerk's Office will be open until Noon at 1600 Osgood Street Suite 2043 and our alternate location such as the North Andover Police Station 1475 Osgood Street from Noon until 8PM.

The deadline to register to vote or change party affiliation is twenty days before each election. Please be certain to verify that you are a registered voter and registered in the party of your choice. For primary elections, you must take the ballot if you are a registered Republican, Democrat, Green-Rainbow or United Independent Party. All voters receive the same ballot in November. This is expected to be a high turnout election and we urge you to check for updates on the Town website.